

CONTROL INTERFACE PROTOCOL FOR TELEPHONE SETS FOR A SATELLITE TELEPHONE SYSTEM

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Claim of Priority under 35 U.S.C. §120

[0001] The present Application for Patent is a continuation and claims priority to Patent Application No. 09/732,805 entitled "Control Interface Protocol for Telephone Sets for a Satellite Telephone System" filed December 7, 2000, ~~pending, which is a division of~~ Patent Application No. 09/201,701 entitled "Control Interface Protocol for Telephone Sets for a Satellite Telephone System" filed November 30, 1998, ~~pending and assigned~~ to the assignee hereof and hereby expressly incorporated by reference herein.

^ now U.S. Patent
No. 6,724,753, which
is a division of

^ now U.S. Patent No.
6,266,540 and assigned

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

I. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates generally to multi-access communication systems. More specifically, the present invention relates to a control interface protocol for telephone sets for use in a satellite telephone system.

II. Related Art

[0003] Many communication systems, such as satellite systems, multidrop telephone lines, and multitap bus systems use multi-access communication configurations. Generally, in a multi-access communication system, a plurality of nodes are connected to a single multi-access channel or an interface bus. Each node has a queue of packets, representing data to be transmitted over or by the interface bus. The interface bus views all waiting packets as one combined queue to be served by an appropriate protocol.

[0004] Several methods for access to an interface bus have been developed for multi-access communication systems. One method is the "free-for-all" method in which nodes normally send new packets immediately, hoping for no interference from other nodes. The problem, however, is that packets need to be retransmitted when collisions, that is, interference, occur. The other method is the "perfectly scheduled" method in which there is some order in which nodes are allocated reserved time intervals for interface bus access.